

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1000

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3202

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EXDIS

FOR ARA-LA/CEN DIRECTOR DAVID LAZAR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: BURSTIN-LAZAR CONVERSATION

REF: SAN JOSE 2728

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER ON JULY 28, I
THANKED HIM FOR UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE HE
HAD SHOWN WITH REGARD TO BURSTIN'S ACCOUNT OF HIS CONVER-
SATION WITH LAZAR.

2. ODUBER ASSURED ME THAT HE DID NOT ATTACH MUCH CREDENCE
TO THE MEMORANDUM BASED ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF BURSTIN, AND HIS
CERTAINTY THAT LAZAR IS FAR TOO INTELLIGENT A PERSON TO
HAVE MADE THE REMARKS BURSTIN ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. HE THOUGHT
THAT BURSTIN'S PURPOSE IN PRODUCING THIS ACCOUNT WAS TO
FURTHER ENCOURAGE FORMER PRESIDENT FIGUERES TO SEEK THE
PRESIDENCY, OR AT LEAST TO TAKE SOME ACTION AGAINST THE
ODUBER GOVERNMENT. HE DID NOT CONSIDER THIS TO BE A
SERIOUS THREAT, HOWEVER.

3. FOLLOWING THIS CONVERSATION WITH ODUBER, I BELIEVE
THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE MATTER IS NOW CLOSED.
TODMAN

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